



By the King.

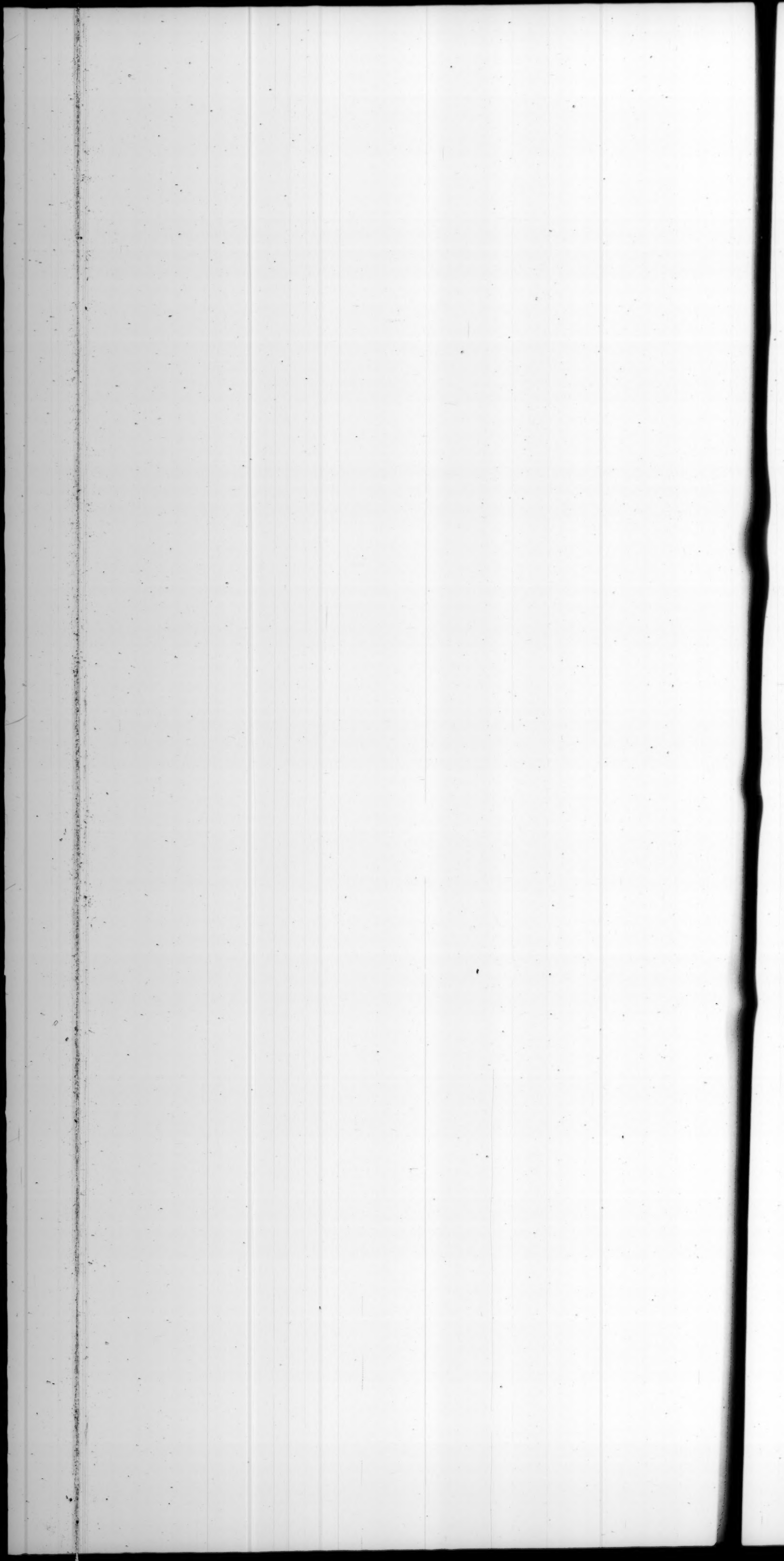
A Proclamation declaring His Maiesties pleasure,  
in the Incorporating of the Tradesmen and Artificers,  
inhabiting within three miles of the Citie of *London*.



Whereas a great number of people aswell Aliens as others Our Subjects borne, who neuer serbed as Apprentices in any trade, craft, or occupation, haue intruded into places, aswell within Our City of London, exempt from the freedome thereof, as without Our said City, and within three miles of the same, And there without restraint or order, haue vsurped, and doe still practise and exercise seuerall Trades, Mysteries, and handicrafts: By meanes whereof the said places are much pestered with Inmates, and become noisome and contagious, wares are falsified and sophisticated, and the Tradesmen and Artificers, aswell within the said places, as within Our Citie of London, who haue serued as Apprentices according to Our lawes, are very much impouerished and disabled to maintaine their families.

Wee taking the premises into Our Princely consideration, and resolving on the best and speediest way of reformation for the good of Our people, and for the remedy of the aforesmentioned evils for time to come, haue thought it meet to set a stop to the future confluence and intrusion of Forreyners and Aliens into the said places. And for that cause, and for the regulating and more orderly disposing of Trade and Tradesmen there, by the aduice of the Lords and others of Our Pruiue Councell, haue by Our Letters Patents vnder Our great Seale of England, in such sort as therein is expressed, incorporated the present Tradesmen and Artificers inhabiting within the same places, who haue serued as Apprentices by the space of seven yeares, and haue there erected and established a settled Government: Ordaining and declaring by Our said Letters Patents, that no person whatsoever, other then the present Tradesmen and Artificers shall from henceforth inhabite in the said places, to set up or exercise any Arte, Mystery, Trade, or Occupation, or vse any trading by retaile there, or be admitted into the said Corporation vntlesse he shall first serue as an Apprentice there by the space of seven yeares.

And concerning the said present Tradesmen and Artificers, wee haue by Our said Letters Patents ordeined and declared, that such of them as haue serued Apprentiships by the space of





seven yeares, shall forthwith be receiued into the freedome of the said body. And for such of them as being Natiues, haue not serued Apprentiships as aforesaid, in regard the punishment whereunto they are lyable (if wee should put Our lawes in execution) would much impouerish them, and rather bring a charge upon the Parishes wherein they lue, which are ouerburdened with poore already, then work any reformation for the time to come: we therefore, out of Our Princely care for their ease and welfare, by Our said Letters Patents haue further ordered, That they also may be admitted into the said Freedome, in such manner, as by Our said Letters Patents is ordained; And after such admittance, shall, and may freely vse their Trades within the said places during their naturall liues.

And as for such Aliens, as haue for some reasonable time, openly vled and exercised Trades within the said places, we haue further by Our said Letters Patents, declared Our gracious will and Pleasure to be; That such of the said present Aliens there inhabiting, as shall bee found fit to partake of this Our Grace and Favour, and will submit themselves to be regulated and ordered by Our Lawes, and the Constitutions of the said Corporation, may also bee admitted into the Communalty and Freedome of the said Body, accordingly as is ordained by Our said Letters Patents; And after such admittance, shall, and may freely vse their Trades there, during their naturall liues: And that no other Alien shall from henceforth be admitted into the said Freedome.

And to the end, that so great care by Us taken, for the generall good and welfare of Our People inhabiting the said places may not bee frustrate; Our will and Pleasure is, That all the said Tradesmen and Artificers, now inhabiting in the said places, and intending there to continue, be forthwith admitted into the said Freedome. And that no person or persons whatsoever, shall after the Feast of All Saints next ensuing, vse or exercise any Trade, Mystery, Craft, Occupation, or trading by Retaile in the places aforesaid, vntil hee, or they bee admitted into the said Freedome, vpon paine of Our Indignation, and such further punishment, as we by Our Lawes, and the Statutes of this Our Realme, or by Our Prerogative Royall may inflict vpon the Contemners of Our Royall will and Pleasure.

And for the more speedy effecting the great good hereby intended, it is Our expresse will and Pleasure, That the Church Wardens, Constables, and other Officers of the seuerall Parishes and Precincts, within the places aforesaid, do forthwith deliuer vnto the Chamberlaines of the said Corporation, the names and surnames of all the present inhabitants, within their respective Parishes and Precincts, who now exercise any Trade, Mystery, Craft, Occupation, or dealing by Retaile there, as also the places of their abode, and what Trade euery of them doth vse: That so the names of the present Tradesmen and Artificers, and places of their abode being knowne, the intrusion of others may the better be prevented, and discovered in time to come.

Lastly, we do hereby declare, That in all the Premises, Our Royall care hath been, not to alter or infringe the present formes of Government already established within any of the said places; but only to affoord Our Royall assistance, for the ease and reliefe of Our good Subjects, in cases already not provided for. And therefore by Our said Letters Patents we haue provided, That the Jurisdiction and forme of Government, heretofore established within Our City of London, Our City of Westminster, the Borough of Southwark, Our Tower of London, the Liberties and Precincts thereof, or elsewhere within the places aforesaid, and the Priuiledges, Immunities and Rites of them, or any of them; and also the Liberties, Priuiledges, Immunities and Rites heretofore granted to the Deane and Chapter of the Collegiate Church of S. Peter Westminster, or by them, or their high Steward for the time being, lawfully vled, shall not by Our said Letters Patents be any wayes infringed or prejudiced.

Given at Our Palace at Westminster, the foure and twentieth day of February, in the twelfth yeere of Our Reigne.



God saue the King.

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to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie: And by the  
Assignes of Iohn Bill. 1636.